

THE LACLEDE BLADE

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FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

Our Special Correspondent Writes Entertainingly of Things at Washington.

Senator Foraker has furnished the political sensation of the week by his announcement that he is not a candidate to succeed himself as senator, but is a candidate for the presidency. Opinion is divided as to the motive which prompted this course. Very few people believe that Mr. Foraker is so blind to the facts as to imagine that he can be elected president. His persistent opposition to President Roosevelt would of itself be enough to prevent his being made the leader of the republican party, even if he had the support of his state, which he has not. It was supposed that he would make a desperate fight for the senatorship, which is the only fight he might have won. His declaration that he will not make the race for the senate leaves but one or two possible explanations of his course. He appreciates that he is utterly defeated, cannot even be re-elected to the senate and is determined to do Taft all the harm he can as he goes down—and this is the explanation favored by the Taft people—or else, he appreciates he cannot be re-elected to the senate and has determined to take a gambler's chance and risk what little political prestige he has left in one throw of the dice for the presidency.

A curious instance of a man without a party is presented by the case of the Hon. Peter Porter, republican member of congress from the 34th district of New York. Mr. Porter, it will be recalled, entered the race against J. W. Wadsworth last fall, taking advantage of the intense opposition which Mr. Wadsworth had aroused by his antagonism of President Roosevelt and his nearly successful efforts to emasculate the meat inspection law. Mr. Wadsworth, who is the largest property owner in his district and who has a great many tenant farmers on his estate, succeeded in controlling the regular district convention. Mr. Porter was nominated by a separate convention as an "independent republican," and he also received the endorsement of the democratic convention, the democrats of that district having never been able to elect a democratic congressman and being only too glad to defeat Wadsworth. Mr. Porter polled 25,000 votes, 6,000 more than the normal democratic vote of the district and he claims, received a very large majority of the votes cast. As he has been a life-long republican the democrats were not anxious to turn out and vote for him.

Coming to Washington, Mr. Porter finds himself on the official list of congress described as a democrat. This he resents as not only has he always been a republican but he entered the lists against Wadsworth at the instance and with the encouragement of President Roosevelt. Col. "Pete" Hepburn, member of congress from the 8th district of Iowa, is chairman of the republican caucus and as such has authority to say who is and who is not a republican. Mr. Wadsworth was one of the wheel horses of the machine in the house, always "voted right" where special interests were affected, which means that he voted as Mr. Cannon, Mr. Dalzell and Mr. Hepburn told him to, rather than as President Roosevelt asked him to,

and the Colonel and his colleagues resent the loss of such a docile and amenable statesman. Moreover, in 1886 an impertinent "independent republican" had the audacity to enter the lists against Col. "Pete" in the 8th Iowa district. Col. Hepburn laughed him to scorn during the campaign but when the votes were counted it was found that the colonel had fallen outside the breastworks and for six long, weary years he strove unavailingly to get back to congress. What Mr. Porter's fate in this congress will be cannot be foretold with accuracy, but that there will be a determined effort to prevent his accomplishing anything for the benefit of his constituents and so promoting his own re-election seems obvious.

President Amador, of Panama, the newest republic in the world, is in Washington this week and on Friday evening was entertained, with Mrs. Amador, by President and Mrs. Roosevelt at dinner, attending afterwards the reception at the White House in honor of Admiral Evans. When asked for his opinion about the completion of the Panama canal, he declined to commit himself to any specified time, saying that was a matter for the engineers to settle, but he expressed decided belief in the benefit of the canal to the country when it was completed, and a sincere hope that the countries which are sister republics of Panama will get together in lasting peace, for the good of progress.

There is a growing realization of the fact that the West is for Taft for president as it believes him to be a man of the same ideas and aims as President Roosevelt. Politicians and representatives as well as senators are arriving in great numbers for the coming session and the standing of the various states is not difficult to obtain. "Kansas is for Taft," says Victor Murdock, representative of the seventh Kansas district. "Of course he does not evoke that stirring enthusiasm that the mere mention of President Roosevelt's name does, but we are for him to a man. We know, beyond a doubt, that when President Roosevelt said he would not again be a candidate for the presidency he meant every word of it." And this seems to be the attitude of the West generally, as voiced by those statesmen and politicians who are now in Washington, ready for the opening of congress.

Stray Pointers

Tacks are stubborn things.
Sweet are the uses of alimony.
Beauty is not always skin deep.
Trust in God but watch the tickler.
The proof of the pudding is in the morning.
He who waits for dead men's shoes is liable to get corns.
It takes two to make a quarrel and three to make a divorcee.
The average man gets cold feet when a friend in need drops in.
Your cue to laugh comes when a rich relative gets off a stale joke.
Better to have loved and lost than to have been the other fellow.
However, the disgrace of poverty is overshadowed by the discomfort.
He kills two birds with one stone who marries a widow with a family.
Some men are too good to be clever and some are too clever to be good.
A lazy man makes a strenuous effort to see how little he can accomplish.
When a man tells a girl she is pretty, she tries to make him believe she didn't know it until he told her.

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